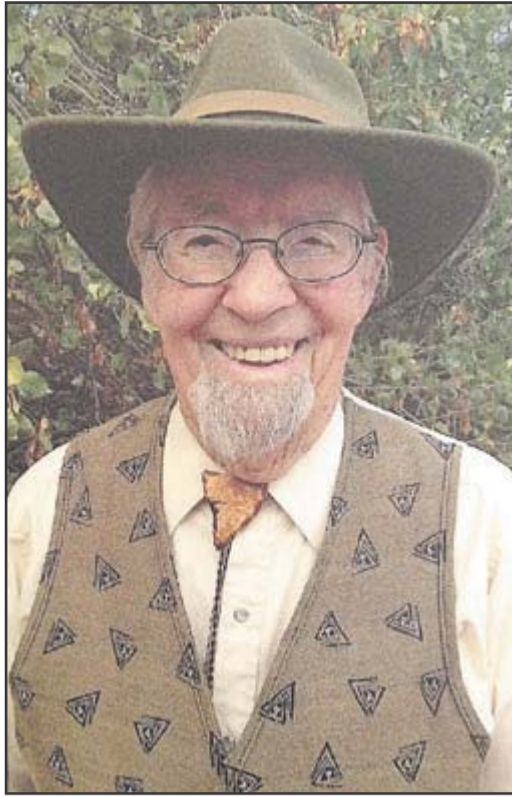
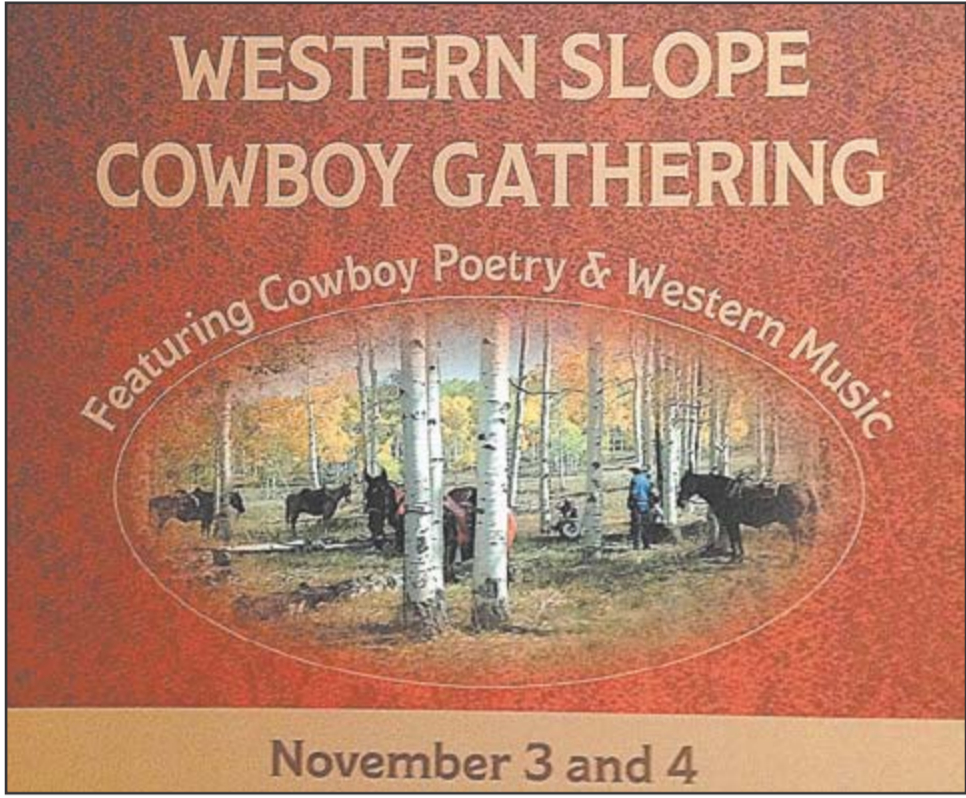


FIRST DRAFT



This poster promotes the upcoming gathering at the Museums of Western Colorado in downtown Grand Junction.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Al Albrethsen, a longtime cowboy poet from Grand Junction, will be one of the performers at the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering.

Cowboy poetry's historic roots celebrated at Western Slope event

From her home near Mesa, Nona Kelly Carver pointed to where the old ranch house once stood. The house had been home to four generations of Carvers, but it deteriorated and was burned down in a fire-department training exercise. Carver wrote a poem about the house called "Ashes On the Snow." It concludes:



BOB SILBERNAGEL

*Our sons were raised at that old place.
We taught them what we could
Of honesty and dignity,
And their response was good.
But time moves on, we can't go back
To that time long ago.
They burned the ranch house down today,
Left ashes on the snow.*

Carver is one of a dozen cowboy poets and musicians who will perform Nov. 3-4 at the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering at the Museums of Western Colorado in downtown Grand Junction. She has participated in similar events around the West.

"When we all get together at these gatherings, it's like we're all a big family," she said.

Peggy Malone, a western musician and poet from Fruita, echoed that sentiment.

"The kind of people who are at these are all family-oriented," she said.

Malone, who is also on the agenda for the gathering, said, "We've got some of the top talent in the nation coming to Grand Junction."

That includes featured performer Kristyn Harris, the 2016 Western Music Association entertainer of the year, and several nationally recognized cowboy poets, including Terry Nash of Loma.

Cowboy poetry "is a unique living heritage that dates back to the large cattle drives soon after the Civil War," said Museum Executive Director Peter Booth. The museum, he added, "is proud to help continue that tradition by hosting our annual Western Slope Cowboy Gathering."

The history of cowboy poetry and music has long attracted



A quilt titled "Windows of the West," commemorating the 2017 Western Slope Cowboy Gathering, was created by Kathy Nash, wife of Loma poet Terry Nash. It will be sold at silent auction during the cowboy gathering Nov. 3-4.

BOB SILBERNAGEL/
Special to the Sentinel

researchers. In 1910, Texas-born and Harvard-educated folklorist John Lomax collected many of the early cowboy verses in a volume called "Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads."

"Songs sprang up naturally, some of them tender and familiar ... others original compositions, all genuine, however crude and unpolished," Lomax wrote.

Many songs Lomax cataloged are still performed today.

Not all the early poets were "crude and unpolished." Folklorist Dave Stanley said most cowboy poets were literate, if not well-educated. He pointed to one early poem called "The Cowboy Soliloquy," the verses of which can be traced directly to Shakespeare's "As You Like It."

Bruce Kiskaddon, perhaps the most famous cowboy poet of the early 20th century, paid homage to Rudyard Kipling when he rewrote Kipling's famous poem "If" as "The Cowboy's If."

Cowboy rhymes didn't remain just around the campfire. Cowboy poet and historian Rod Miller, a Utah native, said that by the 1870s many Western newspapers and livestock journals regularly published range poetry.

Although some well-known cowboy poets had never roped a steer or trailed a cow herd, many, like Kiskaddon, were working cowboys who caught the writing bug, Miller said.

Additionally, cowboy poetry and Western music have long been linked. Songs such as "The Strawberry Roan," and

even "Home On the Range," were initially poems that were set to music later.

Cowboy poetry gained popularity in 1985, with the first National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. Other communities soon created their own cowboy poetry gatherings. Grand Junction hosted its first such event in 1995.

Al Albrethsen was there, and will be on the agenda again this year. Now 96, Albrethsen said he has been at every one of the Grand Junction gatherings since 1995.

So were a number of other local poets and musicians, some of whom have since died, Albrethsen recalled. One was former state Rep. Ed Carpenter, a guitar player and writer. Another was Ray Lashley, a horseman and poet from Clifton who died last summer.

Albrethsen worked on his parents' dairy and later cattle ranch in Idaho, before he became an attorney for the Atomic Energy Commission in Grand Junction. He retired here in 1981 and has since pursued his interest in poetry.

Peggy Malone grew up near Boston, where her father operated a stable. She met her husband, Billy, there, and he brought her to Colorado. They owned a quarter horse ranch near Castle Rock for many years, before moving to Grand Junction in the late 1990s.

Malone has performed cowboy songs and other music for more than 50 years. She met Ray Lashley on a horseback trail ride and learned about cowboy poetry and the Western

Music Association, which she subsequently joined.

Nona Kelly Carver took up cowboy poetry in the mid-1990s, when a leg injury left her laid up for weeks. She performed in public for the first time in 1996 at the Grand Junction gathering and a similar one in Ridgway.

Terry Nash grew up on a ranch in eastern Colorado, and he remains a working cowboy on his ranch near Loma.

"All of us have, somewhere in our background, agricultural roots," he said. "I believe one of my responsibilities is to remind people of that background."

He recalled reciting his poems near Durango recently, when an elderly cowboy listened and became teary-eyed. "If I can stand up in front of an audience and make people remember something, if I can touch 'em, maybe that's why I'm here," Nash added.

Although some cowboy poems prompt sentimental reactions, many others involve humor, as in Albrethsen's "Paint the Town Red." Echoing the old poems about hard-drinking, hard-fighting cowboys, it's about a man who sought a night on the town:

*He came out second best in
A field of two,
And his nose is a' bleedin'.
He's all black and blue.*

*With the blood flowin' freely
He hiccupped and said,
"Well I did what I came for -
I painted her red."*

For information on the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering, go to museumofwesternco.com/event/western-slope-cowboy-gathering.

Sources: "Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads," by John A. Lomax; "Cowboy Poetry," by Dave Stanley, Library of Congress, loc.gov/today/cyber-llc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4091; "A Brief Introduction to Cowboy Poetry," by Rod Miller, Featured at the Bar D Ranch, cowboypoetry.com/rmw/whatis.htm#Brief.

Bob Silbernagel's email is bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

Courts to sponsor training sessions on civil cases

By SENTINEL STAFF

Western Slope residents who have questions about how to navigate the state's civil courts will have a chance to ask them this week.

On Thursday and Friday, volunteer lawyers will be available to instruct anyone who wants to learn about estate planning, uncontested divorces, appeals or adoptions, among many other things.

The training sessions are part of the Colorado Judicial Branch's Legal Resource Days, which will include courses in Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Montrose and nine other locations around the state.

"Events like these help people representing themselves come to the courtroom prepared to work with judges and court staff to move their cases along," Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy Rice said in a statement. "That also helps the

courts to efficiently handle all of their business. I hope many people take advantage of these valuable learning opportunities."

Times and locations of the three local events are:

■ Grand Junction: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Thursday at the Mesa County Central Services Building, 125 N. Spruce St.

■ Glenwood Springs: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Garfield County Courthouse, 109 Eighth St.

■ Montrose County: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at the Montrose County Justice Center, 1200 N. Grand Ave.

Registration is required at some locations.

To register or for information on specific sessions for each of the participating courthouses, go to courts.state.co.us.

Spanish interpreters will be available.

Man faces attempted murder charge

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOVELAND — Police in Colorado arrested a man on suspicion of attempted murder and say he shot another man in the head with a flare gun.

The Loveland Police Department arrested 29-year-old Ryan Johnson on Thursday. Johnson also faces charges of first-degree assault, drug possession and reckless endangerment.

Police say video taken at a gas station on Oct. 9 showed one man pulling up in a car, getting out and walking toward the victim's truck. Authorities say the video showed a large puff of smoke and a red flare.

The injured man was treated for serious burns on his head and body. Police say the attack wasn't random.

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Cost starts at \$35 for 25 words. Deadline for inclusion on this page is Wednesday, Nov. 1st, 3pm. Publishing on Wednesday, Nov. 8th in the Nickel and Saturday, Nov. 11th in the Daily Sentinel and available to view online at GJSentinel.com/Veterans

25 word message with full color photo, \$35

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BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Drugs, weapons alleged

Police arrested a man and woman staying at a Horizon Drive hotel Thursday on drug and weapons charges.

Aaron James Johnson, 39, and Megan Marie Willard, 30, were found in the Mesa Inn Hotel on Thursday in possession of drugs and handguns, according to arrest

affidavits for the two.

Johnson was jailed on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession of a weapon by a previous offender.

He was released from jail on a \$25,000 cash-only bond.

Willard was jailed on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance, possession

of drug paraphernalia and possession of a weapon by a previous offender.

She was released on a \$20,000 cash-only bond.

According to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office:

■ Joseph Bradley, 21, was issued a summons Friday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance.

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